

***Botaurus lentiginosus* (American Bittern)**

Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: *Pelecaniformes* (Peleicans, Herons, Ibises, And Allies)

Family: *Ardeidae* (Bitterns, Egrets, Herons, And Night-herons)

General comments:

Status secure though anecdotal evidence of decline in southern Maine

Species Conservation Range Maps for American Bittern:

Town Map: [Botaurus lentiginosus_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Botaurus lentiginosus_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

Northeast Endangered Species and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee:

Risk: Yes, Data: Yes, Area: No, Spec: No, Warrant Listing: No, Total Categories with "Yes": 2

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan:

High Concern

United States Birds of Conservation Concern:

Bird of Conservation Concern in Bird Conservation Regions 14 and/or 30: Yes

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to American Bittern:

Formation Name Agricultural

Macrogroup Name Agricultural

Habitat System Name: Pasture-Hay

Formation Name Freshwater Marsh

Macrogroup Name Coastal Plain Pond

Habitat System Name: Northern Atlantic Coastal Plain Pond

Macrogroup Name Emergent Marsh

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh

Macrogroup Name Modified-Managed Marsh

Habitat System Name: Modified-Managed Marsh

Macrogroup Name Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh

Habitat System Name: Introduced Wetland and Riparian Vegetation

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp

Stressors Assigned to American Bittern:

No Stressors Currently Assigned to American Bittern or other Priority 3 SGCN.

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Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to American Bittern:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to American Bittern or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Conservation Actions Associated with the Marsh birds Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Implement targeted surveys to better understand the distribution and status of this species and to help direct conservation actions to newly documented populations			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Work with landowners to maximize hemi-marsh conditions and maintain stable water levels.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Dams and Water Management-Use

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
Work with landowners to develop and post signs or other strategies for discouraging recreational users from disturbing nesting birds.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.